

The Arts Endowment's Office for AccessAbility helps to make the arts fully accessible to older adults, persons with disabilities, and those living in institutions. In 1997, the Office conducted arts access seminars at six conferences nationwide; among them was the fourth regional access symposium, *Sense and Sensitivity*, convened in Milwaukee with Arts Midwest for its nine-state region. In addition, the Office helped the National Council on Aging develop a first-ever National Database on the Arts and Older Americans, through which arts organizations and groups concerned with the aging can obtain information on more than 500 arts programs involving older adults.

Under 1997 funding, the Office convened the first-ever national forum on careers in the arts for people with disabilities, held in June, 1998. It was organized with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Social Security Administration, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. With the Department of Justice, the Office conducted one-year artists' residencies at Federal Correctional Institutions in

Coleman, Florida; Fairton, New Jersey; and Cumberland, Maryland. Furthermore, the Office supported technical assistance efforts such as the dissemination of Arts Education for the Blind's publication *Making Visual Art Accessible to People Who are Blind*.

A major focus of the Endowment's accessibility efforts is universal design—the holistic approach to design that goes beyond minimum codes and standards to create design that serves the broadest public throughout the human life span. The Office supported and distributed the first collection of Universal Design Exemplars to demonstrate this concept and to encourage landscape, graphic, interior, and industrial designers, as well as architects, to practice universal design. One of the exemplars was the National Building Museum exhibit "Washington: Symbol & City," featuring large-scale, touchable models of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, and row houses. In addition, the Office funded and nationally distributed a video and publication describing how the Millay Colony for the Arts utilized universal design in creating its new building and landscape.

AccessAbility

4 awards \$148,782

The projects in this section serve multiple artistic disciplines.

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts¹

Washington, DC \$71,782

A cooperative agreement to support a first-ever forum on careers in the arts for people with disabilities that convened June 14-18, 1998 and was organized in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and Social Security Administration.

Millay Colony for the Arts, Inc.

Austerlitz, NY \$10,000

To support and distribute nationally the video *Beyond Access: Universal Design at the Millay Colony* and a 50-page publication that documents Millay's model universal design process used to create its new main facility and landscape.

New England Foundation for the Arts²

Boston, MA \$50,000

A cooperative agreement to support the second phase of a project to plan and convene a symposium that will assist NEFA's six-state region in making its facilities, programs, and other activities fully available to older adults and individuals with disabilities.



With the opening of its new, universally designed main building, the Millay Colony for the Arts in Austerlitz, New York is able to accommodate persons with and without disabilities. Photo by David Stansbury.

William James Association²

Santa Cruz, CA \$17,000

A cooperative agreement to organize, monitor, and evaluate three one-year artists' residencies at Federal Correctional Institutions in Coleman, Florida; Fairton, New Jersey; and Cumberland, Maryland in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice.

¹Includes \$20,000 in Policy, Research, & Technology administrative funds.

²This award was made using Policy, Research, & Technology administrative funds.